

VITL AWARDED \$6.8 MILLION GRANT TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE QUALITY FOR VERMONTERS

VITL Named Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center

Vermont's nation-leading health care reform effort has received another boost, in the form of a \$6.8 million federal grant to Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL), to help more Vermont health care providers improve patient care by using electronic health records and other information technology.

In an announcement today, VITL was designated as a Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center by Dr. David Blumenthal, the national coordinator for health information technology. VITL is one of 32 centers designated nationwide, assisting health care organizations to computerize medical records and use the technology to provide better care.

"We at VITL are delighted to receive this grant from the Office of the National Coordinator. We appreciate the support we have received from our congressional delegation, the governor and stakeholders throughout the state. The regional center grant will help Vermont accelerate the transformation of its health system through the adoption of electronic health records in support of our ambitious Blueprint for Health initiative," said Dr. David Cochran, VITL's president and CEO.

Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers like VITL are funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Congress has appropriated approximately \$30 billion to help U.S. health care providers nationwide invest in electronic health records systems. VITL and other regional centers will assist physician practices in improving patient care and meet the criteria to receive the ARRA funds.

VITL will be offering Vermont physician practices a package of services, including educational programs, onsite consulting, and project management. VITL has developed its programs over the last several years under funding from the state of Vermont and the Vermont Health IT Fund, and is ready to immediately begin working with additional physician practices. More information about VITL's program for assisting physician practices is located at <http://www.vitl.net/pages/show/ehr>

VITL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates as a partnership between the public and private sectors. VITL's mission is to collaborate with all stakeholders to expand the use of secure health information technology to improve the quality and efficiency of Vermont's health care system.

For more information, contact:
Steve Larose
802-223-4100, ext. 102
slarose@vitl.net

